

New Mexico Gold King Mine Summary Region 6 Update (8/11 PM)

In New Mexico, EPA has a team of one incident commander, four federal on-scene coordinators, twelve water quality experts, a logistics manager and thirty-two contractors responding to the spill as it reaches communities in the state. EPA mobile command center is operational and a sample processing and shipment center has been established in Farmington.

EPA has placed personnel with NMED in Santa Fe to enhance planning and communication between the agencies. EPA Region 6 has one federal on-scene coordinator and public information officer stationed with Unified Command in Durango, Colorado.

EPA launched a toll-free community hotline at 844 - 607 - 9700 (English, Spanish and soon Navajo available) for the Gold King Mine response activities in Colorado, Ute. Tribe, New Mexico and Navajo Nation.

Regional Administrator Ron Curry attended the public information meeting at the Farmington Convention Center to discuss EPA's response activities and coordination with state and local officials. NMED Secretary Flynn was also a panelist at the meeting attended by 100 participants.

EPA is continuing collecting water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. Each of these locations will continue to be monitored as the spill makes its way past these areas. EPA has two dedicated water quality experts available in New Mexico to assist the five drinking water systems.

Water quality laboratory results from six samples taken on Aug 6 and 7 before the spill reached Aztec and Farmington areas confirm that water conditions within the river met drinking water requirements. These results will be used by local officials to evaluate conditions after the spill to determine when water use can return to normal. Preliminary data from Aug 8, the first date the spill reached the area, is undergoing review by EPA technical experts and should be available soon.

EPA is providing alternative water supply for livestock in New Mexico. This service was previously being provided by San Juan County NM and completed four deliveries today.

EPA and New Mexico Environment Department are providing free water quality testing for domestic drinking water wells along the river. NMED and EPA provided a sign up booth at the San Juan County Fair for private well owners.

Teams of qualified technicians are going door-to-door to collect samples for laboratory analysis. Six teams, made up of NMED and/or EPA technicians, sampled 18 private domestic wells today and 14 wells the day before.

NM Department of Game and Fish biologist and game warden monitoring found wild birds with stains were able to fly and rehabilitation has not been required. NM Game & Fish did not observe any fish kills during yesterday's overflight.

New Mexico Drinking Water Systems – 5 systems with 9 intakes; 3 systems rely on the main systems

System Name	Population	# Days Water Available
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800	10 days
Farmington Water System	47000	60-90 days
Lower Valley WUA	8428	8 days
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423	7-14 days
Northstar WDWCA	4123	45 days
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593	5 days; Relies on Aztec
Upper La Plata WUA	2265	Relies on Aztec and Farmington
Flora Vista	4300	1 day; Relies on Aztec
Total Population	80,392	